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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, His Excellency Mr. Alfred Serreqi (see annex) on the recent tragic events in Macedonia.

I should very much appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 69 and 97, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 November 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address myself to you and share my deep concern relating to recent developments in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, namely, in Macedonia. As you may be aware, this former Yugoslav republic is inhabited by a considerable number of Albanians, who comprise 40 per cent of the whole population. The Government of the Republic of Albania, through bilateral meetings and in international bodies, has always expressed its reservations over the treatment of the Albanian population in Macedonia. The recent developments, for the seriousness they represent, are ever more worrying. The violent clashes which happened last week resulted in 4 people killed, 30 others wounded and more than 80 people arrested. Those figures speak very clearly for a serious confrontation, which needs to be attentively considered by the international community.

The Albanian political subjects in Macedonia have demonstrated tolerance and maturity by appealing to the people not to lose their temper and fall victims of the police provocations and other political forces, which are interested in triggering a new bloody conflict.

The Government of the Republic of Albania, in its constructive efforts to prevent the spreading of the conflict to other parts of former Yugoslavia, has often contacted the authorities of Shkup (Skopje), granting to them a prerecognition as a real partner in negotiations. In all those meetings at different levels, we have shown very clearly the position of the Republic of Albania towards Macedonia and have stressed our attitude that the recognition of the territorial integrity of Macedonia within its existing borders constitutes a stability factor for the whole region. But meanwhile we have also insisted that the legitimate rights of the Albanian population in Macedonia must be exercised. In this we have found a de jure understanding from the Macedonian side. Nevertheless, the recent events throw a shadow of suspicion on the seriousness of the commitments, which the Macedonian side has promised to accomplish. The delegations of the Republic of Albania in different international forums have presented the concern of the Albanian public by clearly stating that the development of our bilateral relations depends very much on the defining of the status of Albanians in that country.

Being confronted now with a reality, and at the same time being aware that this Republic has not yet been recognized, I consider it reasonable to address this letter to you in order to share with you the concern of the Albanian people and its Government over the aforementioned situation. In this respect, I should kindly ask you in your capacity as the Secretary-General of

the United Nations to use your influence that this region must be put under international observation in order to avoid new bloodshed. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to stress that the Government of the Republic of Albania would support any efforts to keep the peace in the region and give its contribution to this end.

(Signed) Alfred SERREQI

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Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/82 A of 16 December 1991. In that resolution, the Assembly dealt with various aspects of the situation in the Middle East and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council periodically on the development of the situation and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive report covering the developments in the Middle East in all their aspects. The present report covers the period from 16 November 1991 to 20 November 1992. It should be pointed out, however, that the report does not address the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. It is based mainly on information available in United Nations documents, to which references are made whenever appropriate.

II. UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES

2. There continue to be three United Nations peace-keeping operations in the area: two peace-keeping forces, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and one observer mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

A. United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

3. UNDOF, with some 1,130 troops provided by Austria, Canada, Finland and Poland, is deployed between the Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights in accordance with the disengagement agreement concluded between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in May 1974. A group of UNTSO observers is detailed to the Force and assists it in the performance of its tasks. The main functions of the Force are to supervise the cease-fire between the Israeli and Syrian forces and to man the area of separation established by the disengagement agreement. The Security Council has extended the mandate of UNDOF as necessary, the last time on 29 May 1992 for a further period of six months until 30 November 1992 (resolution 756 (1992)).

4. The activities of the Force since May 1991 are described in two reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/23233 and Corr.1 and S/23955). As reported by the Secretary-General, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet; UNDOF has continued to perform its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties, and there have been no serious incidents.

B. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

5. UNIFIL, which is deployed in southern Lebanon, was established by the Security Council in March 1978, following the first Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Its mandate is to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, to

restore international peace and security and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area (resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978).

6. The mandate of the Force has since been extended as necessary, the last time on 30 July 1992 for a further period of six months until 31 January 1993 by resolution 768 (1992). In the course of 1992, the strength of the Force was reduced by 10 per cent. At present UNIFIL has some 5,300 troops, provided by Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway, Poland and Sweden. A group of UNTSO observers assists the Force in the performance of its tasks.

7. UNIFIL's activities and the situation in its area of operation since July 1991 are described in two reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/23452 and S/24341). As reported by the Secretary-General, UNIFIL has continued, to the best of its ability, to prevent its area from being used for hostile activities and to protect civilians caught in the conflict. Although the Force has been prevented from carrying out its mandate, its contribution to stability in the region has nevertheless remained important.

C. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

8. Established in 1948 to supervise the truce in Palestine, UNTSO has been given various assignments over the years, including the supervision of the General Armistice Agreements of 1949 between Israel and the four neighbouring Arab States and the observation of cease-fires after subsequent wars. During the period under review, UNTSO continued to assist UNDOF and UNIFIL in the performance of their tasks and to maintain an observer group in the Egypt-Israel sector as well as liaison offices in Amman and Beirut. The headquarters is in Jerusalem.

9. UNTSO is currently undergoing a streamlining, gradually reducing its strength from 298 to some 220 military observers from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.

III. SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

10. The General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/46/522), composed of representatives of Senegal, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia, adopted resolutions 46/47 A to G on 9 December 1991. By these resolutions, the Assembly, inter alia, demanded that Israel desist forthwith from a number of policies and practices mentioned in the resolution and renewed the mandate of the Special Committee (resolution 46/47 A); reaffirmed

that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, was applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and strongly demanded that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention and comply with its provisions (resolution 46/47 B); demanded that Israel desist forthwith from taking any action that would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 (resolution 46/47 C); deplored the arbitrary detention or imprisonment by Israel of thousands of Palestinians (resolution 46/47 D); demanded that the Government of Israel rescind the illegal measures taken by its authorities in deporting Palestinians and facilitate their immediate return (resolution 46/47 E); determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan were null and void and constituted a flagrant violation of international law (resolution 46/47 F); and condemned Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty members in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory and demanded that Israel comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, rescind all actions and measures taken against all educational institutions, ensure the freedom of those institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities, schools and other educational institutions (resolution 46/47 G).

11. During the period under review, the Security Council met twice, in January and April 1992, to consider the situation in the occupied Arab territories. On 6 January 1992, the Security Council adopted resolution 726 (1992) by which it strongly condemned the decision of Israel, the occupying Power, to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians; reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; requested Israel to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported. It decided to keep the matter under review.

12. On 4 April 1992, in a statement by the President (S/23783), the members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern over the continued deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip, especially the current serious situation in Rafah in which several Palestinians had been killed and many more injured; they condemned all these acts of violence at Rafah and urged maximum restraint in order to bring the violence to an end. They further urged Israel to abide at all times by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to respect and to act in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council; and expressed their concern that any escalation of violence would have serious implications for the peace process, especially at a time when negotiations to achieve a comprehensive,

just and lasting peace were under way. The members of the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices, in accordance with resolution 681 (1990) of 20 December 1990, regarding the situation concerning Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

13. On 14 February 1992, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1992/1 by which it determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel that purported to alter the character and legal status of the Syrian Golan were null and void, constituted a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and had no legal effect. On the same day, the Commission also adopted resolutions 1992/2 A and B concerning the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine. Furthermore, on the same day the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1992/3 concerning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories by which it reaffirmed that the installation of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories was illegal and constituted a violation of the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and urged the Government of Israel to abstain from installing settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories.

14. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories held periodic meetings in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 A. Between meetings, the Special Committee was kept informed of events taking place in the occupied territories; the information was gathered from a variety of sources, including oral testimony and written communications. At its meetings, the Special Committee reviewed that information and assessed the human rights situation in the occupied territories. In accordance with resolution 46/47 A, the Assembly at its current session has before it the periodic reports of the Special Committee (A/47/76 and A/47/262), as well as the Special Committee's twenty-fourth report (A/47/509).

15. During its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly also adopted resolutions 46/201 of 20 December 1991 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people, 46/162 of 19 December 1991 concerning living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and 46/199 of 20 December 1991 concerning adverse economic effects of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967. These questions are the subject of separate reports, which have been circulated under the relevant agenda items.

IV. PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM

16. Following its consideration, at its forty-sixth session, of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, 1/ the General Assembly adopted 11 resolutions on this subject on 9 December 1991. In resolution 46/46 A, the Assembly noted with deep

regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III) had not been effected, that no substantial progress had been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 513 (VI) for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continued to be a matter of serious concern; expressed its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of UNRWA, recognizing that the Agency was doing all it could within the limits of available resources; reiterated its request that the headquarters of the Agency should be relocated to its former site within its area of operations as soon as practicable; noted with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine had been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III), and requested the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1992; directed attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General; noted with profound concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, that increased level of income to the Agency was still insufficient to cover current essential requirements; and called upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency.

17. The report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine under General Assembly resolution 46/46 A and the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA under resolution 46/46 B have been circulated as documents A/47/413 and A/47/576, respectively.

18. The other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly dealt with the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (resolution 46/46 B); assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities (resolution 46/46 C); offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees (46/46 D); Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 (resolution 46/46 E); resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees (resolution 46/46 F); return of population and refugees displaced since 1967 (resolution 46/46 G); revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties (resolution 46/46 H); protection of Palestine refugees (resolution 46/46 I); the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees (resolution 46/46 J); and protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of UNRWA in the occupied Palestinian territory (resolution 46/46 K). The situation of the Palestine refugees and the activities of UNRWA since the adoption of these resolutions are described in the annual report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992. 2/ The reports of the Secretary-General under resolutions 46/46 D, E, F, G, H, I, J and K have been circulated as documents A/47/488, A/47/489, A/47/490, A/47/491, A/47/438, A/47/492, A/47/601 and A/47/493, respectively.

V. QUESTION OF PALESTINE

19. At its forty-sixth session, on 11 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted five resolutions under the agenda item entitled "Question of Palestine".

20. In resolution 46/74 A, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 87 to 95 of the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; 3/ requested the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights; 4/ and authorized the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations.

21. In resolution 46/74 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the necessary resources, including a computer-based information system; and also requested him to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division for Palestinian Rights to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine.

22. In resolution 46/74 C, the General Assembly requested the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as might be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine.

23. In resolution 46/75, the General Assembly reaffirmed the urgent need to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which was the question of Palestine; considered that the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, based on Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, would contribute to the promotion of peace in the region. The Assembly reaffirmed the following principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace: the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other occupied Arab territories; guaranteeing arrangements for security of all States in the region, including those named in resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and subsequent relevant resolutions; dismantling the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied since 1967; and guaranteeing freedom of access to Holy Places, religious buildings and sites. The Assembly

welcomed the convening at Madrid, on 30 October 1991, of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, which constituted a significant step towards the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region; noted the expressed desire and endeavours to place the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, under the supervision of the United Nations for a transitional period, as part of the peace process; and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region, and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter.

24. In resolution 46/76, the General Assembly condemned those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and, in particular, such acts as the opening of fire by the Israeli army and settlers that result in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians, the imposition of restrictive economic measures, the demolition of houses, the ransacking of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, collective punishment and detentions, and so forth. It demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, abide scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and desist immediately from those policies and practices which were in violation of the provisions of the Convention; called upon all the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the Convention in all circumstances, in conformity with their obligation under article 1 thereof; and urged all the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention to respond to the note verbale submitted to them by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 681 (1990). The Assembly strongly deplored the continuing disregard by Israel, the occupying Power, of the relevant decisions of the Security Council; reaffirmed that the occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territory since 1967, including Jerusalem, and of the other Arab territories in no way changed the legal status of those territories; requested the Security Council to examine with urgency the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory with a view to considering measures needed to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; invited Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the mass communications media to continue and enhance their support for the Palestinian people; and requested the Secretary-General to examine the present situation in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, by all means available to him and to submit periodic reports thereon, the first such report as soon as possible.

25. The report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session appears in document A/47/35.

VI. SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

26. At its forty-sixth session, on 16 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in the Middle East. In resolution 46/82 A, the Assembly reaffirmed its conviction that the question of Palestine was the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region would be achieved without the full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights and the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories; reaffirmed that a just and comprehensive settlement of the situation in the Middle East could not be achieved without the participation on an equal footing of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization; declared once more that peace in the Middle East was indivisible and must be based on a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Middle East problem under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of its relevant resolutions; considered the Arab Peace Plan adopted unanimously at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference, held at Fez, Morocco, and confirmed by the Extraordinary Summit Conference of Arab States, held at Casablanca, Morocco, as an important contribution towards the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people through the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace; condemned Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, and demanded the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967; rejected all agreements and arrangements that violated the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and contradicted the principles of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem; determined that Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and to declare it as its "capital" as well as the measures to alter its physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and status were null and void and demanded that they be rescinded immediately; condemned Israel's aggression, policies and practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and outside that territory; condemned Israel's annexationist policies and practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; called upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories; and strongly deplored the collaboration between Israel and South Africa. In resolution 46/82 B, the Assembly deplored the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem.

27. General Assembly resolutions 46/82 A and B were brought to the attention of Member States, and a report of the Secretary-General including the relevant comments received from Member States was circulated as document A/47/673.

28. On 19 February 1992, the Security Council considered the situation in the Middle East. In a statement by the President (S/23610), the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern about the renewed and rising cycle of violence in southern Lebanon and elsewhere in the region, deploring in particular the recent killings and the continued violence, which threatened

to claim additional lives and to destabilize the region further. They called upon all those involved to exercise maximum restraint in order to bring such violence to an end; reaffirmed their commitment to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, as set out in resolution 425 (1978); and asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. They expressed their continued support for all efforts to bring peace to the region on the basis of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and urged all the parties concerned to work vigorously to enhance the ongoing peace process.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

29. During the past year I have followed closely the negotiating process which was launched at the Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid in October 1991. I have also maintained close contacts with the parties concerned and the co-sponsors of the peace talks. In meetings with leaders from the Middle East, I have consistently expressed support for the negotiations and have underlined the readiness of the United Nations to assist in any way that might be useful. It is therefore encouraging to be able to report that today all of the parties welcome United Nations involvement in the process - an involvement which, I hope, will intensify in the months ahead. It is incumbent on every participant in this process to muster the goodwill, flexibility and determination necessary to sustain the negotiations until they achieve their goal. The peoples of the Middle East - a region which has been subjected to five major wars, and where tension and bloodshed continue to cast a shadow over the fragile process that has been established - deserve no less.

30. I have always believed that the United Nations, with its wide experience in peace-keeping, humanitarian relief and technical assistance, is in a position to play a more substantive and integrated role in the Middle East. History recalls that United Nations peace-keeping has its origins in this region; United Nations observers and peace-keeping forces have for decades contributed to peace and stability in the area. On the economic and social side, United Nations agencies and programmes have a solid record of assistance in the region. Finally, and not least important, United Nations resolutions have long been recognized as the cornerstone of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) are the basis of the present negotiating process.

31. One month ago, the United Nations was invited to attend as a full participant the multilateral working groups on regional issues. On 20 November 1992, I appointed Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan of India as my Special Representative to the multilateral talks. He will coordinate the role of the United Nations in the working groups on arms control and regional security, water, environment, economic and regional development and refugees.

32. The multilateral talks are themselves a recognition of the need not only to reach a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict but to secure the foundations upon which peace can be sustained. Economic and social development is a fundamental aspect of international peace and security, and this is no less true in the Middle East than in other regions of the world. The United Nations will spare no effort in helping to achieve these objectives.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13 and corrigendum and addendum (A/46/13 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

2/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/47/13).

3/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/46/35).

4/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.21), chap. I, sect. B.

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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 46/82 A and B of 16 December 1991. In paragraph 12 of resolution 46/82 A, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council periodically on the development of the situation in the Middle East and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive report covering the developments in the Middle East. That report will be submitted separately as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The General Assembly, in resolution 46/82 B, which deals with the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, called upon all States to adopt a number of measures concerning relations with Israel and called upon the States concerned to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

2. The Secretary-General, in order to fulfil his reporting responsibility under the above-mentioned resolutions, on 13 October 1992 addressed notes verbales to the Permanent Representative of Israel and to the Permanent Representatives of the other Member States and requested them to inform him of any steps their Governments had taken or envisaged taking concerning implementation of the relevant provisions of those resolutions. As of 16 November 1992, replies had been received from Ecuador, Grenada, Israel and Tunisia. Those replies are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. REPLIES FROM MEMBER STATES

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in reply to his request contained in note RES 46/82-GA, has the honour to advise him that the Government of Ecuador does not provide any kind of assistance to Israel and, as regards the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, that it maintains its Embassy in Tel Aviv. Accordingly, the Government of Ecuador is in full compliance with the provisions of resolutions 46/82 A and B, adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1991.

GRENADA

[Original: English]

The Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note RES 46/82-GA of 13 October 1992, which refers to General Assembly resolutions 46/82 A and B.

Grenada has abided by the provisions of all United Nations resolutions relevant to the situation in the Middle East and has consistently encouraged a peaceful settlement to the problems in the Middle East.

In its statement to the General Assembly on 5 October 1992, Grenada welcomed the peace talks taking place among the key parties to the Middle East conflict and counselled continued dialogue and flexibility in order to bring lasting solutions to that region's problems.

Grenada does not envisage taking any further steps on this matter.

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note (RES 46/82-GA) of 13 October 1992 concerning resolutions 46/82 A and B on "The situation in the Middle East".

Israel has consistently voted against General Assembly resolutions under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East", because they distort the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict and they contradict any genuine notion of peace.

Israel is presently engaged in bilateral and multilateral face-to-face negotiations with its neighbours. One of the foundations of the current peace process is the Camp David Accords. Nevertheless, paragraph 3 of resolution 46/82 A on "The situation in the Middle East" goes so far as to refer to resolution 36/120 F of 10 December 1981, in which the General Assembly "strongly reaffirms its rejection" of various provisions of the Camp David Accords. This is a clear illustration of the anachronistic and harmful nature of the resolutions on "The situation in the Middle East".

TUNISIA

[Original: French]

The Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to his letter (RES 46/82-GA) of 13 October 1992, has the honour to transmit the response of the Government of Tunisia regarding measures it has taken pursuant to resolutions 46/82 A and B, which were adopted by the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", as follows:

> "Pursuant to resolutions 46/82 A and B adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1991, under the agenda item entitled 'The situation in the Middle East', Tunisia has:
>
> "(1) Reaffirmed, in official statements by its leaders and in communiqués issued following meetings between heads of State and Government, the principles set forth in the above resolutions, which must serve as the basis for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East, namely:
>
> "(a) That the question of Palestine lies at the core of the conflict in the Middle East;
>
> "(b) That the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations calling for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 must be implemented;
>
> "(c) That a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the participation on an equal footing of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization;
>
> "(d) That Israel must cease its aggression and its illegal practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and outside those territories, including expropriation, establishment of settlements, repressive measures ...;

"(2) Worked closely with its partners to discourage recognition of the 'Basic Law' of Israel regarding Jerusalem;

"(3) Contributed to the drafting and adoption of resolutions reaffirming these principles at the level of regional organizations (Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, etc. ...);

"(4) Participated in multilateral negotiations on peace in the Middle East in order to implement the principles of international law relevant to the Middle East;

"(5) Provided assistance, as needed, to the Palestinian leadership to which our country continues to act as host."

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (A/47/607). During its consideration of the item, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, decided to establish, under its authority, a United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and requested the Secretary-General immediately to deploy a unit of 50 United Nations observers to monitor the cease-fire in Mogadishu, as described in his report (S/23829 and Add.1-2). The Security Council, by its resolution 767 (1992), approved the Secretary-General's proposal (see S/24343) to establish four operational zones in Somalia as part of the consolidated United Nations Operation in Somalia. Following consideration of the Secretary-General's report of 24 August 1992 (S/24480) on the findings of the technical team and his recommendations of an enlargement of UNOSOM, the Security Council, by its resolution 775 (1992), authorized an increase in the strength of UNOSOM up to 3,500 all ranks, including the security unit of 500. The Security Council agreed subsequently (S/24532) to the Secretary-General's proposal to provide three specialized units for logistic, communications and medical support at up to 719 all ranks, further increasing the total strength of UNOSOM to 4,219 all ranks.

3. As indicated in section II of the report, the Advisory Committee, by a letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 May 1992, concurred with his proposal to enter into commitments of up to $7,410,000 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991 to set up UNOSOM and to provide for its maintenance during the initial two-month period. The Advisory Committee further concurred, by a letter dated 14 September 1992, with the

Secretary-General's proposal to enter into additional commitments in the amount of $10 million to provide for the most urgent requirements of UNOSOM until October 1992, following the Security Council's authorization to increase the troop strength of the operation, pending the submission of detailed cost estimates. In that connection, the Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that resources totalling $5 million were temporarily used from the Trust Fund in Support of United Nations Peacemaking and Peace-keeping Activities.

4. The Secretary-General estimates the total cost of UNOSOM for the period from 1 May 1992 to 31 October 1993, including the pre-implementation phase, at $208,122,700 gross ($204,585,700 net) (para. 13). The expenditure for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1992, including pre-implementation costs, is projected at $6,953,100 gross ($6,741,600 net). A breakdown of the cost estimates is contained in annex I to the Secretary-General's report with supplementary information for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1992 in annex II. Annex III provides a breakdown of the cost estimates for the first and second six months of the period from 1 November 1992 to 31 October 1993 in the amounts of $117,154,500 gross ($115,626,800 net) for the period from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993, including certain one-time start-up costs, and $84,015,100 gross ($82,217,300 net) for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1993; supplementary information is provided in annexes IV and V. The proposed civilian staffing table and the civilian staff and related costs of UNOSOM are contained in annexes VI and VII, with the proposed vehicle establishment in annex VIII and a map of the operational area in annex IX.

5. The operational plan of UNOSOM is summarized in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Secretary-General's report on the basis of general assumptions contained in paragraphs 17 to 21. In section IV of his report, the Secretary-General states that one Member State has provided to UNOSOM a voluntary contribution in kind in the form of an airlift for the emplacement of military personnel; no budgetary provision has been made for the emplacement of troops during the period from 1 May to 31 October 1992 (annex II, para. 16). The Committee was further informed that another Member State would provide hospital equipment and its transportation free of cost, which will result in savings (annex II, para. 58, and annex IV, para. 77).

6. The Secretary-General recommends in section V of his report the establishment of a special account for UNOSOM under financial regulation 6.6. The Secretary-General further states that, should the mandate of UNOSOM be extended by the Security Council, appropriate additional accounting arrangements may be proposed to the General Assembly (para. 23).

7. In that connection, the Committee recalls that the Secretary-General had recommended to the Security Council to consider establishing UNOSOM for an initial period of six months (S/23829, para. 62). The Security Council, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of its resolution 751 (1992), took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General of 21 April 1992 (S/23829 and Add.1-2) and decided to establish UNOSOM under its authority. Up to now, therefore, the Security Council has not specified the length of the mandate for UNOSOM.

The Committee was informed that it was normal for the troop-contributing States to provide their contingent personnel for six months and it was assumed by the Secretary-General that the mandate period for UNOSOM would extend for another six-month period beyond 31 October 1992. The Committee was further informed that the Secretary-General intended to submit a report to the Security Council on the situation in Somalia within the next six months and that he would also prepare a performance report on UNOSOM for the period from 1 May 1992 to 30 April 1993. As pointed out by the Board of Auditors, careful determination of the financial period and the assessment period of a peace-keeping operation is important in ensuring budgetary control and financial management of the operation. The Committee considers it important that the question of the duration of the mandate should be resolved as soon as possible.

8. The Advisory Committee undertook a careful and detailed examination of the cost estimates for UNOSOM, including the supplementary information thereon as set out in the annexes to the Secretary-General's report. The report on the financing of UNOSOM was difficult to analyse for a number of reasons. The report, which was issued on 11 November 1992, does not contain detailed information on budget performance for the initial six-month period of UNOSOM, which would have been useful in assessing future requirements.

9. The Committee further notes that there is insufficient specific and detailed information in the report under a number of items, which make it difficult to assess the estimated requirements. Furthermore, the budget document does not contain information on the difficult conditions in the mission area, which constrain the launching of the operation, nor on inter-agency cooperation in the context of the humanitarian assistance programme. Upon inquiry, the Committee was provided with the report on the United Nations 100-day action programme for accelerated humanitarian assistance for Somalia, dated 10 October 1992.

Expenditure from 1 May to 31 October 1992

10. With regard to the mission subsistence allowance for all military observers and international staff, provision is made for 5,054 person days in the amount of $490,000 (annex II, paras. 2 and 9). As regards the 500-strong security force, standard troop reimbursement of $689,000 is based on a period of 1.3 months at standard rates (annex II, para. 12). Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the deployment of the 50 military observers, authorized by Security Council resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, could be completed only on 23 July 1992 and the security force, authorized by the Council on 14 August 1992 (S/24452), was fully deployed by the end of September.

11. As regards civilian personnel costs, provision is made for 45 international staff, including 13 Professional staff (annex II, para. 19, and annex VII). The Committee points out that the budget document does not contain a staffing table for the initial six-month period and the functional responsibilities of the Professional staff are not indicated in the report (see para. 26 below).

12. According to annex II, paragraph 5, about 70 per cent of the international civilian staff will come from New York and the remaining 30 per cent will travel from Europe or the Middle East; however, the Committee was informed that only 20 out of 45 international civilian staff of UNOSOM, or 44 per cent, were from New York. The Committee recalls that the salaries and staff costs for international staff are based on standard salary costs for New York (annex II, para. 6), which are on average higher than those from other duty stations (see A/46/904, para. 11, on the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)).

13. With regard to rations for 500 contingent personnel at the rate of $7.50 per person per day ($155,000), the Committee was informed that the rate was based on expenditures in previous operations and troop contributors would be reimbursed accordingly. The Committee recommends to indicate in future reports the elements for calculation of the rations, which vary in each operation.

14. The Committee notes that some 200 local personnel have been recruited for the initial six-month period at $200,000 (annex II, paras. 20 and 54). These include people recruited under special service agreements as well as local security personnel. The Committee believes that it would have been useful to indicate in the budget document the number of local staff recruited for the various functions, the duration of their employment and the rates of their services. The Committee was informed that an amount of $17,000 per month was currently being spent on local security arrangements for the hire of personnel known as "local security escort protection".

15. With regard to premises, the Committee notes that provision is made for the rental ($238,000) and maintenance ($19,000) of 19 premises in Mogadishu for the initial six months. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that government-owned premises were not available for UNOSOM and the estimates are based on costs incurred by other agencies operating in the mission area. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that co-location with other agencies was not practical.

16. The Committee notes that provision is made for the rental of 14 vehicles for 166 days at a daily rate of $65 in the amount of $151,500 (annex II, para. 30). The Committee notes that the rental costs for one vehicle for about six months amount to $10,822 compared to the budgeted purchase price of a four-wheel drive jeep of $18,000 (annex IV, para. 35). The Committee reiterates its view that the early acquisition of new vehicles would be more cost-effective than rental for an extensive period.

17. With regard to the proposed replacement of the current INMARSAT communications terminal by a VSAT earth station estimated at $800,000 as a preliminary requirement (annex II, para. 42), the Committee was informed that the United Nations standard procedure was first to install INMARSAT terminals in the mission area and subsequently to replace them by a VSAT earth station while continuing some INMARSAT terminals, as required. The Committee was further informed that, owing to the recent large increase in peace-keeping operations, no communications equipment was available from other missions.

18. Subject to the comments contained in the paragraphs above, the Committee recommends approval of the estimate of $6,953,100 gross ($6,741,600 net) for UNOSOM for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1992, which had expired prior to review by the Committee.

Cost estimates from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993

19. The Committee is of the view that the "accommodation-provided" mission subsistence allowance of $97 per day for all military observers and international staff is high compared with the daily subsistence allowance for Somalia of $117 (without accommodation), effective 1 November 1992 (ICSC/CIRC/DSA/210). The Committee was informed that the mission subsistence allowance included a high element for incidentals such as medicine, clothes and food, and also compensated for hardship in the mission area. Representatives of the Secretary-General further stated that a survey of the situation in Somalia was taking place at present and that the current rates would be revised accordingly. The Committee believes that there is potential for savings under the item.

20. The Committee was informed that some of the general assumptions of UNOSOM have changed and was provided with a revised deployment schedule of troops as at 9 November 1992 superseding the original timetable (annex IV, para. 5) and subject to further change, as necessary. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the deployment conditions in Somalia had deteriorated recently to an extent that might jeopardize the launching of the operation as planned. The Committee was further informed that the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Somalia would soon make recommendations to the Secretary-General concerning the deployment of troops and any changes in the operation, as appropriate, following his current assessment "on the ground" and after consultation with the parties concerned.

21. According to the revised schedule, the deployment of four battalions would be delayed for several weeks. The Committee was further informed that at present no troop contributor had been identified to provide certain logistic units, which are at present projected to consist of elements at a combined reduced strength of 641 compared to 719, and that deployment would have to be delayed for some time. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the reductions of the logistics units and the late deployment of troops according to the current revised plan would reduce the estimate under contingent personnel by a total of $3,120,600.

22. The Committee is of the view that there may be savings under contingent-owned equipment owing to the projected reduction in the logistics unit. The Committee reiterates its view that there is a need to provide more information on contingent-owned equipment, including an inventory list (see para. 32 below). In that connection, the Committee was informed that a consultant had been hired to categorize the current contingent-owned equipment and to review the schedule of reimbursement (which was established in 1978), as recommended by the Committee in its report on the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) (A/46/893, para. 15). Furthermore, the Committee recalls its

observation in its recent report on the reports of the Board of Auditors (A/47/500, para. 52):

> "In particular, the Advisory Committee recommends that an appropriate schedule for proper valuation and depreciation of property should be established and procedures pertaining to the schedule should be strictly adhered to. In this connection, the Advisory Committee agrees with the Board's views that an effective basis be established for the determination of the depreciated values of non-expendable property ... and valuation of contingent-owned equipment ... In this regard, the Committee draws attention to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 45/258 of 3 May 1991."

23. With regard to rations, the Committee notes that the daily rate has increased from $7.50 during the initial six months (annex II, para. 14) to $12.60 per person per day, consisting of $7.20 for ration, $0.98 for water and $4.42 for transportation (annex IV, para. 14). Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that troops arrived in the mission area without fresh rations, which are mostly not available in the region and have to be imported by a supply company, entailing transportation charges to the points of entry in Somalia. The Committee was further informed that the provision had been made for three months until competitive bidding for the provision and transportation of rations could be arranged.

24. The Committee notes that the civilian staff and related costs for 220 international civilian staff, including 52 Professionals, 69 General Service and 99 Field Service staff, are based on a vacancy rate of 20 per cent for the period 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993 (annex VII). The Committee believes that it would have been useful to indicate in the budget document the proposed phasing in of civilian personnel and their actual date of arrival in the mission area as at 1 November 1992. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that, as at 9 November 1992, out of a total of 52 Professional staff 16 were on board and 9 under recruitment, and that out of a total of 168 Field Service and General Service staff 42 were on board and 22 ready to travel or under recruitment. In view of the considerable difficulties in recruiting qualified staff for UNOSOM, the Committee was informed that the projected vacancy rate of 20 per cent for the period from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993 could be higher, resulting in additional savings under civilian staff and related costs, including salaries, common staff costs, mission subsistence allowance and travel costs.

25. The Committee notes that salaries and staff costs for international staff are based on standard salary costs for New York (annex IV, para. 7), which are on average higher than those from other duty stations. Considering that during the initial six-month period less than half of the international staff were from New York (see para. 12 above), the Committee believes that additional savings can be made under civilian staff costs.

26. The Committee observes that the functional responsibilities of the Professional posts are not indicated in the budget document (see para. 11 above). The Committee reiterates its view that the proposed establishment of

new posts, in particular at the senior level, should be well justified in the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of peace-keeping operations, containing a description of the functional responsibilities of new posts in the context of the overall structure of the operation. The Committee believes that such information is essential for a careful and detailed assessment of the need for proposed new posts and the cost-effectiveness of the operation, as indicated in its report on ONUSAL (A/46/904, para. 16).

27. The Committee notes that in view of the increase in the cost of living in Somalia, approval has been given, as a special measure, for the payment of a non-pensionable bonus of 80 per cent of net salaries to locally recruited staff for the initial six-month period (annex II, para. 7) and the period from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993 (annex IV, para. 8) pending the results of the comprehensive salary survey in the mission area (annex II, para. 7). The Committee trusts that the outcome of the current survey will be indicated in the Secretary-General's performance report for the current period.

28. In that connection, the Committee was informed that no action has been taken yet with regard to the Committee's recommendation on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), as endorsed by the General Assembly, to exclude local staff of peace-keeping operations from participating in the Pension Fund, which causes an avoidable increase in the cost of the operation without benefiting the staff and imposes an enormous administrative burden on the Fund (A/46/916, paras. 32 and 33). The Committee is of the view that appropriate arrangements should be made to cover disability cases through insurance or payment from the special account, which would be more cost-effective and less cumbersome than participation of all local staff in the Fund. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the matter and report thereon in the context of his report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peace-keeping operations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in accordance with resolution 45/258 of 3 May 1991, with a view to containing the large costs of new operations and making their administration more efficient.

29. With regard to premises ($35,710,000), including construction of pre-fabricated buildings ($35,160,000) (annex IV, paras. 25-33), the Committee was informed that prefabricated units at a value of $11 million had been diverted from UNTAC to UNOSOM. Bearing in mind the Committee's view that it is not appropriate for Member States to be charged twice for the same item even though the charge would be a credit to the operation from which it has been transferred, as indicated in its report on ONUSAL (A/46/904, para. 9) and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission UNAVEM II (A/46/945, para. 27), the Committee was informed that there would be a consequent reduction in the budget estimate of $11 million.

30. In that connection, the Committee points out that it had difficulty analysing the estimates for premises owing to the lack of specific information on the design, configuration and capacity of buildings, number and types of common facilities included in the different housing units, location of staff

in the operational area and use of office premises and living accommodation for civilian and military personnel compared to other operations. In view of the considerable requirements for premises in the amount of $35,710,000, or about one third of the costs for the above period, the Committee reiterates its view that there is a need to substantiate in the budget document the requirements for premises and cost estimates in a detailed and comprehensive manner, specifying all units and identifying their location in the mission area with a breakdown of premises per unit and related costs.

31. The Committee notes, moreover, that the projected installation of prefabricated housing and the competitive bidding should be planned at the early stage of an operation to expedite the installation, thus saving rental costs and enhancing the efficiency of the operation. In view of the above and considering the possibility of establishing portable military camps, the Committee believes that there is potential for additional savings.

32. With regard to transportation ($3,150,600), the Committee notes that it is proposed to acquire 124 vehicles for UNOSOM, in addition to some contingent-owned vehicles (annex IV, paras. 35 and 36). The Committee believes that it would be useful to indicate the number of vehicles to be provided by troop contributors to make an assessment of the proposed vehicle establishment (see para. 22 above).

33. With regard to air operations, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that the provision for helicopters ($4,790,000) was intended to permit continuous monitoring of the progress of humanitarian relief of convoys and the evacuation of casualties from such convoys. For those purposes the five medium-sized helicopters would be equipped to transport up to four stretcher cases as well as to carry supplies. The Committee trusts that the requirement for all aircraft will be kept under review, taking into account also the assets at the disposal of other United Nations agencies (see para. 39 below).

34. The Committee was further informed that late arrival of aircraft will result in reduced requirements of $145,000.

35. The Committee notes that a provision of $2,256,000 is made for communications. The Committee was informed that capital equipment at a value of $190,000 was transferred from surplus communications equipment held in stockpiles of various operations. Bearing in mind the Committee's observations in paragraph 29 above, the Committee notes that this will result in a reduced requirement of $190,000.

36. The Committee further notes that it is planned to install a VSAT system ($1.7 million) to replace the current INMARSAT system (annex IV, para. 56, and para. 17 above). At the same time, provision of $180,000 is made for INMARSAT user charges for six months at the monthly rate of $30,000 (annex IV, para. 59). The Committee questions the need to continue the provision for INMARSAT user charges throughout the six-month period while provision of $800,000 for the acquisition of the preliminary equipment for a VSAT earth

station has already been made for the initial phase of UNOSOM (see para. 17 above) and the full installation of the new system is scheduled by the end of 1992. The Committee is of the view that the full provision for both systems from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993 is not necessary and that INMARSAT charges could be reduced upon the full installation of the VSAT earth station. The Committee believes that economies could be made through the more efficient use of communications equipment. In that connection, the Committee recalls its observation in its report on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) concerning the need to ensure the acquisition of equipment that is compatible with the needs of the mission (A/45/1005, para. 18). The Committee further noted in its report on ONUSAL that the proposed equipment should not be more sophisticated than required for the operation and should be based on normal standards and actual needs, taking into account the local environment (A/46/904, para. 24).

37. As regards other equipment, provision is made for 60 electric typewriters at $750 each ($45,000) and 150 desktop computers with printers and software at a unit cost of $4,500 ($675,000) (annex IV, paras. 62 and 63). The Committee is of the view that the above rates are high for standard equipment.

38. The Committee was informed that the banking system in Somalia had collapsed as a result of the situation prevailing in the country at present and that all financial transactions had to be made in cash. Under the circumstances, the Committee points out that it is essential to establish firm internal control on all financial transactions, including detailed and up-to-date recording and close monitoring by certifying officers and supervisory staff.

39. The Committee points out the urgent need to coordinate effectively the operations of all United Nations agencies in Somalia under the authority of the Special Representative for Somalia. The Committee notes that effective coordination arrangements will enhance considerably the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia and reduce resource requirements in premises, logistics, transportation, air operations and communications. According to information provided, other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have made significant provision for fixed-wing aircraft in the context of their own operations in Somalia, in addition to UNOSOM. The Committee trusts that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will make every effort to achieve optimum coordination of all United Nations agencies operating in Somalia and that the arrangements will be indicated in detail in the report on the financial performance of UNOSOM.

40. The Committee points out, as it has done with regard to other operations (see A/46/893, para. 29, on UNPROFOR), that the Secretary-General's reports on the financing of peace-keeping operations should be more transparent, containing detailed organigrams of the organizational structure of the operation with the main functions of the personnel, specification of all units and identification of their location on a map of the mission area, breakdown

of premises per unit, allocation of vehicles in the various units and areas, narratives and charts on the functioning of communications systems, distribution of communications, office and other equipment, calculation of travel costs and a list of contingent-owned equipment. The Committee reiterates its view that such information is essential for a careful and detailed assessment of the proposed cost estimates of peace-keeping operations and trusts that it will be provided to the Committee on time when it examines the Secretary-General's performance report on the financing of UNOSOM for the period for 1 May 1992 to 30 April 1993.

41. The Committee expresses its concern that the recent reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of peace-keeping operations do not address the concerns of the Advisory Committee with regard to the proposed format and the costing of these operations, which need to be followed up effectively. The Committee intends to address those issues in the context of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations to be submitted to the General assembly at its forty-seventh session in accordance with resolution 45/258 (A/47/484).

42. In view of the Committee's observations and recommendations in paragraphs 10 to 41 above and the projected reduction in the estimate of $14,455,600 (see paras. 21, 29, 34 and 35 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly, at this stage, appropriate and assess for UNOSOM $6,953,100 gross ($6,741,600 net) for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1992 and $102,698,900 gross ($101,171,200 net) for the period from 1 November 1992 to 30 April 1993. As indicated in paragraph 7 above, bearing in mind the number of uncertainties with regard to UNOSOM, the Secretary-General intends to submit within the next six months a report to the Security Council on the situation in Somalia, including possible revisions in the operation, and he will also prepare a performance report on UNOSOM for the period 1 May 1992 to 30 April 1993. The Committee trusts that that report will contain detailed information on the performance of UNOSOM since its inception, taking into account the Committee's observations and recommendations, especially the areas where savings can be made. Under the circumstances, the Committee does not believe it is necessary to address at the present time cost estimates for the period after 30 April 1993. Commitment authorization and appropriation for that period should be subject to the action to be taken by the Security Council concerning the continuation of the mandate of UNOSOM.